

50 years later, a terrible symmetry



As part of a trauma-treatment programme, Rwandese boys act out killings they witnessed with 'guns' they fashioned from found materials.

As its 50th anniversary year begins, UNICEF finds itself once more called upon to care for children caught in the path of human conflict. For several decades, UNICEF worked primarily to nurture long-term development. But as conflicts have escalated around the globe, the organization has been forced to shift more of its resources to emergency care of children suffering the consequences of war — just as it did after World War II.

This terrible symmetry is leading UNICEF and many others to contemplate next steps: what can be done both to prevent conflict and to minimize its repercussions? This issue describes some approaches, among them the UNICEF Anti-war Agenda.

It also covers a few of the reasons for optimism in this anniversary year. Guinea worm disease is on the verge of eradication, partly through education efforts like those in Niger. Greater numbers of South Asian children are spending their days in schoolrooms instead of factories. And, by ratifying the Convention on the Rights of the Child, all but six countries of the world have pledged to protect the human rights of their youngest citizens.

First Call for Children

'The essential needs of children should be given priority in bad times as well as good' — *Plan of Action, World Summit for Children*

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In Asia, urban improvement programmes often displace poor communities like this one on the outskirts of Jakarta. This and other issues affecting the urban poor will be addressed at the global Habitat II conference taking place in June.

Squatters in Asia's cities forced out for 'development'

By Johanna Son

From 3 to 14 June 1996, the second UN Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) will convene in Istanbul to discuss strategies for improving the living environments of the world's rapidly growing urban population.

Asia's growth is leaving by the wayside its urban poor, many of them squatters who are being evicted for construction projects, according to housing rights' advocates.

Advocates say communities in Malaysia are having to give way to golf courses and shopping centres, in Hong Kong to private commercial development, in Karachi to mass transit systems and in Bombay to off-and-on beautification schemes.

"The same things are happening to the urban poor in different Asian countries, all in the name of development," said Maria Fides Bagasao of the Manila-based Urban Poor Associates.

Evictions going on in many Asian countries highlight how governments are failing to address the problems that fast urbanization and migration are causing in increasingly congested cities, say housing advocates.

Each year in Asia, 200,000 to 300,000 urban families are forcibly evicted, according to the Bangkok-based Asian Coalition of Housing Rights (ACHR). The future looks even more daunting, with the region expected to be 51 per cent urbanized by the year 2020. The Asian Development Bank says that by the year 2015, 17 of the world's 27 'megacities' will be in Asia.

The findings are reported in a recent book by ACHR, *Eviction Watch Asia: Forced Evictions and Housing Rights Abuses in Asia*.

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Ending child labour in Bangladesh

First school for former child workers

A major step was taken towards eliminating child labour from one of Bangladesh's largest industries with the inauguration of the first school for former child garment workers on 31 January. The school was established under the terms of a

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) reached in July 1995 between the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and UNICEF.

The opening of the school is a step towards ensuring the country's children their human rights as pledged by the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which Bangladesh ratified in 1990.

About 500 non-formal schools are to be established in urban areas to absorb all child garment workers under 14 years old. The school inaugurated in January, located near Dhaka in Khilgaon, will be operated by the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee, or BRAC. It will serve children who until recently worked in nearby garment factories. Other NGOs are expected to participate as the programme expands.

The MOU stipulates that all child workers under 14 be terminated from employment in the garment factories as

of 31 October 1995. However, the agreement includes a provision that "children will not be terminated until (educational) programmes are ready to absorb them." A survey of more than 2,000 garment factories conducted by BGMEA between September and November 1995 found about 11,000 under-aged workers during unannounced visits to factories in Dhaka, Narayanganj, Chittagong and other urban areas.

Each child attending school will receive Tk300 per month (\$7.50) in compensation for lost wages. BGMEA has agreed to contribute \$250,000 for stipends and \$50,000 to develop education programmes. UNICEF and ILO will fund implementation of the education programme.

The MOU came about in response to recognition that child labour must be phased out, both on humanitarian grounds and to maintain long-term stability in the garment industry, one of the country's prime export earners.



A Bangladeshi school girl.

Quality schools raise enrolment in India

By Laura Lorenz Hess

The inextricable link between missed or poor education and the growing numbers of children in the workforce is receiving greater

attention as developing countries tackle the massive problem of child labour. Education is a basic strategy to prevent and eliminate child labour — and a fundamental child right, enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

In India, about half the children — 90 to 100 million — are estimated to be out of school, and most of them are presumed to be working in some way. The percentage of children in school in the southern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh is below average for India, and the percentage of children in the paid workforce is almost double the national average. But those figures are improving in the district of Rangareddy. An innovative school programme, known as the universal education model, is changing the face of education in the district.

Flexibility and friendliness are hallmarks of the model, developed in 1992 by MV Foundation, a Hyderabad NGO. The programme encourages parents and communities to get involved and students to participate in hands-on learning in settings that are often far removed from traditional classrooms — such as camps, night schools and community centres.

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Convention ratified by all but six countries

The vision of a world community united in favour of the human rights of children is almost a reality, with the Convention on the Rights of the Child only six countries shy of universal ratification.

To date, 187 countries have ratified the Convention, making it the most widely and most rapidly accepted human rights treaty in history. Cook Islands, Oman, Somalia, Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates and the United States have yet to ratify. Switzerland and the

United States have signed the Convention, indicating their intention to ratify.

"A century that began with children having virtually no rights is ending with children having a powerful and wide-ranging instrument that not only recognizes but protects their human rights," said Carol Bellamy, UNICEF Executive Director.

Ratification is only the first step, however, in a complex process aimed at turning a pledge into reality. When

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Young people get a new voice on the Internet

By Nóra Godwin

What do you think should be done to give special protection to children in times of war?

Pretend you are mayor of a big city for one day and you have the power to change things. What would you do to make the city a better place for everyone, especially children?

What can you and your friends do in your community to help support the rights of children everywhere?

The views of children are receiving increased attention and weight internationally when it comes to issues dealing with their rights and well-being. Now, thanks to the Internet and *Voices of Youth*, a major UNICEF cyberspace initiative, young people around the world will have an even greater chance to participate in decisions affecting their lives.

Voices of Youth, launched last year to gather young people's views on issues to be discussed at the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen, has recently been reactivated by UNICEF as a forum for young people to communicate their opinions.

It presents a strong challenge to young people everywhere: **You** have a voice when it comes to issues that affect your lives and rights, and those of children everywhere. Here is an opportunity to let yourself be heard!

Voices of Youth targets children,

Squatters

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"True development does not throw out its greatest productive assets, its labour force," the Support Committee for Urban Settlers in Kuala Lumpur says in the book. "The point must finally be made that the security of land tenure and the adequacy of shelter is an essential component of a nation's development and must be seen as essential to lasting and sustainable progress."

Activists recommend that instead of relocating people to sites outside the city, far from jobs, governments should upgrade existing settlements and provide basic services, which will curb crime and other social ills. Upgraded slum sites may remain crowded, they say, but they become much safer and cleaner.

Denis Murphy, co-author of the book, said the fear of eviction makes squatters reluctant to invest in their communities. "Everywhere, conditions improve when people have land tenure security," he said. He added that security of land tenure for the urban poor need not mean titles, but leases or some other form of guarantee of residency. "These people are willing to pay something, although it won't be at market value," he added.

Mr. Murphy said that policy makers would do well to view the matter of squatters not as a property issue but as an economic issue — providing decent shelter to people who work in the city and thus contribute to its economy. "We need to provide them a place so they can easily come and help us," he said. In Manila, squatters occupy less than 10 per cent of the land area but make up nearly half of the city's 9 million people, despite the fact that squatting is illegal.

From a report by Inter Press Service.

youth advocates, school groups and teachers with three interactive forums on the Internet. The first, 'Our Meeting Place', elicits opinions and ideas for community action from children in three age groups: under 10, 10 to 14, and over 14. Participants are invited to discuss any of three major topics: child rights, children in armed conflict and those living in cities. More issues will be added as the programme is developed.

Children have open access to Our Meeting Place through the special *Voices of Youth* web page (<http://www.unicef.org/voy>) or through the UNICEF Home Page on the World Wide Web. After indicating their age group, young Net users select one of the three topics, which are introduced with background information, photos and points of discussion. Thus briefed, children type in a comment, opinion, question or a suggested course of action in relation to the issue in question.

Their responses are posted where they can be shared with, added to or responded to by other users. An action box asks the participants to devise cooperative plans for taking action in their own communities and invites them to return to the site to report on how the action they took worked out.

It is hoped that the responses of young users of *Voices of Youth* will be presented at some major events in the course of this year. For example, the project will make its first public impact at the second UN Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), taking place in June in Istanbul. In July, selections of young people's ideas from *Voices of Youth* will be presented to coincide with the Olympic Games in Atlanta.

'Our Learning Place', the second *Voices of Youth* forum, broke new ground when it was initiated in March



At the 1995 World Summit for Social Development, *Voices of Youth* helped hundreds of children to transmit opinions on major world issues using the Internet.

1996 as a learning centre for school and educational groups communicating with their peers from all over the world. Unlike many previous educational programmes linking children electronically, Our Learning Place presents its users with puzzles and problems about devel-

A strong challenge for young people.

opment, justice and peace that can only be solved by cooperating with other groups. Logging onto the programme, children from several schools or youth groups around the world might, for example, cooperate to work out ways to alleviate the multifaceted problems of poverty. By the end of the exercise, they would develop a consensus on how

much weight to give to such variables as food, health care, education and employment opportunities. This forum can only be accessed by password. Schools and groups wishing to take part should get in touch with the Contact Support listed on the *Voices of Youth* Home Page.

The third forum, 'The Research Forum', also begun in March, provides an opportunity for teachers, trainers, educational planners and child advocates to exchange ideas and experiences in using electronic networks for global education projects. It is hoped that such exchanges will help add further material to *Voices of Youth*.

One of the immediate challenges faced by *Voices of Youth* is to extend the reach of its programme to less developed areas of the world where people might not have access to the Internet. Where telephone lines exist in such areas, *Voices of Youth* will provide a listserver that will allow participants to retrieve information through text-only email.

Questions or comments about *Voices of Youth* can be sent to the following address on the Internet: cmorton@hqfaus01.unicef.org

Nóra Godwin is Chief of Education for Development at UNICEF.

Convention

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a country ratifies the Convention, it commits its government to pass new laws and revise existing legislation consistent with the rights enumerated in the Convention. A number of countries have taken such steps.

For example, the Sri Lankan Parliament recently enacted sweeping changes in its child abuse, child labour and adoption laws, while Belgium passed laws to extend national jurisdiction to other countries in cases of child prostitution and pornography. New justice codes for children were enacted in El Salvador and other countries, while Mexico, Pakistan and Tunisia modified their laws to afford greater protection for juvenile offenders. Ombudspersons were established in Austria and Colombia (among other countries) to hear grievances and to monitor implementation of the Convention.

Within two years of ratifying, countries must report on implementation progress to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, an international body that officially monitors countries' compliance with the Convention.

UNICEF adopts Mission Statement

As one of the opening actions in its 50th anniversary year, UNICEF adopted a mission statement — the first in the organization's history — at the first 1996 session of the Executive Board. Developed with the participation of staff throughout the organization, along with national partners and the Executive Board, the Mission Statement provides a succinct description of the role and purpose of UNICEF.

THE MISSION OF UNICEF

UNICEF is mandated by the United Nations General Assembly to advocate for the protection of children's rights, to help meet their basic needs and to expand their opportunities to reach their full potential.

UNICEF is guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child and strives to establish children's rights as enduring ethical principles and international standards of behaviour towards children.

UNICEF insists that the survival, protection and development of children are universal development imperatives that are integral to human progress.

UNICEF mobilizes political will and material resources to help countries, particularly developing countries, ensure a "first call for children"

and to build their capacity to form appropriate policies and deliver services for children and their families.

UNICEF is committed to ensuring special protection for the most disadvantaged children — victims of war, disasters, extreme poverty, all forms of violence and exploitation and those with disabilities.

UNICEF responds in emergencies to protect the rights of children. In coordination with United Nations partners and humanitarian agencies, UNICEF makes its unique facilities for rapid response available to its partners to relieve the suffering of children and those who provide their care.

UNICEF is non-partisan and its cooperation is free of discrimination. In everything it does, the most disadvantaged children and the countries in greatest need have priority.

UNICEF aims, through its country programmes, to promote the equal rights of women and girls and to support their full participation in the political, social and economic development of their communities.

UNICEF works with all its partners towards the attainment of the sustainable human development goals adopted by the world community and the realization of the vision of peace and social progress enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

World Congress to address sex trade of children

By Sara Ann Friedman

States Parties undertake to protect the child from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.... (They) shall in particular take all appropriate ... measures to prevent: the inducement or coercion of a child to engage in any unlawful sexual activity; the exploitative use of children in prostitution or other unlawful sexual practices ... (or) in pornographic performances and materials.

— Article 34, Convention on the Rights of the Child

More than a million children are lured, sold or otherwise recruited into the multi-billion-dollar sex industry yearly, according to most estimates. Though the industry appears to be growing, so is international pressure to stop this insidious form of exploitation. From 27 to 31 August, the World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children will take place in Stockholm. The first major global effort to eliminate this fundamental violation of children's rights, the Congress will focus on how to stop child prostitution and pornography and the trafficking in children for sexual purposes.

The Congress was initiated by the NGO ECPAT (End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism) and is co-sponsored by UNICEF and the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child, a Geneva-based network of 38 NGOs. The Government of Sweden is hosting the Congress. Participants will include representatives of governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, law enforcement agencies, academic institutions, health professions, the media and several UN agencies, including ILO, UNAIDS, UNESCO, UNHCR and WHO.

"The point of this Congress is to confront the issue globally," said Bertil Lindblad, UNICEF Senior Adviser on Children in Especially Difficult Circumstances. "Thousands of people have been fighting this profound betrayal of children's trust throughout the world. We want to bring them together to develop realistic and comprehensive strategies for fighting child sexual exploitation. For UNICEF, it is part of an overall effort to enhance our involvement in major child protection issues."

Focus on impact

Participants in workshops at the Congress will explore the deep-rooted causes of the problem, including the role of sex exploiters and the major social, economic and cultural conditions that generate and maintain commercial sexual exploitation. Participants will also focus on the impact of sexual exploitation on health and education and explore ways to provide psychosocial rehabilitation to child victims. Topics relating to prevention include legal measures, law enforcement and responsibility of the media. Guiding the entire Congress agenda are the child's rights to survival, protection and development as set forth in the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Sara Ann Friedman is Editor of NGO Action for Children.



Bombay is expected to be Asia's next AIDS 'capital'. The risk of being infected with HIV is high in the city's red-light district. The Government is working with NGOs to spread awareness about HIV/AIDS and to provide shelter and health care.

Facing rise in AIDS case-load, India steps up awareness and services

By Paul Murphy

With Bombay poised to take over from Bangkok the unfortunate title of 'AIDS capital' of the world, NGOs in India are beginning to establish awareness campaigns and provide services for AIDS-affected people. But these activities are a drop in the ocean compared to the fast-growing need.

So far, India has only around 2,000 diagnosed AIDS cases, and it is fourth in Asia — behind Thailand, Cambodia and Myanmar — in the percentage of adults infected with HIV. However, WHO estimates that India currently has 1.75 million HIV-positive people, and expects

India is expected to have 4 million HIV-positive people by the year 2000.

that number to climb to 4 million by the end of the decade.

Until recently, Thailand was considered the Asian country most likely to be devastated by AIDS. But since 1991, when the Government instituted widespread education and prevention programmes, the number of new HIV infections has dropped each year. Researchers say behavioural changes have made the difference. According to a recent report in *The New York Times*, the percentage of Thai men paying for sex has fallen by half, to 10 per cent, in the past few years, and condom use in brothels has doubled to 60 per cent since 1990.

As in Thailand and much of Asia, the spread of HIV/AIDS in India is facilitated primarily by the sex industry, followed by intravenous drug use, poor health and hygiene, tainted blood supplies and ignorance about the disease. Despite the lack of reliable statistics, health officials see ominous signs.

"We are alarmed that during antenatal tests, 2.5 per cent of pregnant women

in Bombay are now HIV-positive," said Dr. Prakash Gurnani, UNICEF health officer in Bombay. He said that a survey by the National AIDS Research Unit showed that AIDS is concentrated in Maharashtra state, of which Bombay is the largest city. Prostitution abounds, with 30,000 female and 3,000 male prostitutes known to operate in the city. Many of them are either HIV-positive or have AIDS.

Harrowing stories about the prostitutes' lives have come to light, thanks to the work of volunteers like Sheela Remedios, who heads a group that provides assistance to children of women from the red-light districts. Her group, Committed Communities Development Trust, funded by the Swiss NGO Terre des Hommes, recently opened a shelter in Bombay to care for children whose parents are dying of AIDS. A growing number of these children, orphaned or abandoned, end up on the streets.

This is the likely future for two sons born to Leela Gupta, a Bombay prostitute who is HIV-positive. At the age of 13, Ms. Gupta was tricked into working in a brothel located in a grimy district known in the sex trade as 'Playhouse'. But she was thrown out when she fell ill and now lives on the sidewalk with her severely undernourished one-year-old son. Her eight-year-old son, Rajnesh, begs for money to buy them food.

HIV spreads rapidly among young prostitutes, whose population is growing. Some of the girls in the brothels are as young as nine, reports Ms. Remedios. "There is a common superstition that having sex with young children will give men greater health and vigour," she said.

The children born to HIV-positive mothers are "desperately vulnerable," said Peter Godwin, New Delhi-based chief of UNDP's regional HIV project for Asia and the Pacific. "Thirty per cent of children born to HIV-infected mothers will be infected. Most of these infected adults will die and leave orphans who will end up on the streets."

Many of those orphans will then confront social ostracism that leaves them unable to obtain medical attention or schooling, said Mr. Godwin. "In Bombay, many doctors and nurses won't

touch any AIDS patients," he said. The problem is compounded by the fact that, at many poorly equipped public hospitals, the staff do not get the recommended double-density gloves, protective aprons or eye shields.

"Our AIDS sufferers had all been thrown out of their homes by their families and left to die on the streets," said Sister Marina of the Missionaries of Charity, which runs the Bombay AIDS hostel opened in May 1995 by Mother Teresa. A four-year-old is the youngest resident of the hostel, Mother Teresa's first such project in India.

High risk of AIDS

Street children are at high risk for contracting AIDS, said Dr. Gurnani. In Bombay, tens of thousands of them sleep on rail platforms or sidewalks. "Sexually abused by older people, they get into prostitution," he said. "Many are also into drugs. Those who are rag pickers handle garbage and may get pricked by tainted needles."

Sujata Ganega, Director of the Society Undertaking Poor People's Onus for Rehabilitation (SUPPORT), a UNICEF-assisted NGO that runs a drop-in centre for street children in Bombay, believes spreading AIDS awareness is crucial to prevention. But educating street children presents a special challenge. "How do you get across the reality of AIDS to desperate children who think only about getting enough to eat and coping from day to day?" she asked. "We first try to give them some comfort, by taking them for a picnic, for example. Only then do we try to get across the message about AIDS."

UNICEF targets young people in its awareness campaigns. For the 1995 World AIDS Day (observed annually on 1 December), UNICEF presented a play to around 800 of Bombay's school children. Yet much more needs to be done in this densely populated country, where health information spreads slowly. A recent survey in New Delhi, for example, revealed that 65 per cent of women had never even heard of AIDS.

Paul Murphy is a freelance journalist currently based in New Delhi.

Educating India's children

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MV's approach to retaining children in school aims to mobilize families to send their children to primary school and strengthen the education system by working with community organizations to provide more teachers and classrooms and develop interactive teaching methods in local languages. The approach also works to establish non-formal night classes for children not in school, with the goal of enrolling them in formal school, and to provide intensive education for older students in residential camps to prepare them for the entrance exams of the formal school system.

These camps, which run for either three months or a year, are geared to boys and girls — many of them former child labourers — who either missed school or dropped out early. In addition to room and board, children are provided with textbooks and laundered clothes.

The district government has instituted the model in most of the district's 32 *mandals*, or counties, with technical assistance from MV Foundation and several local NGOs. UNICEF has contributed \$233,680 to the universal education programmes of MV Foundation and other NGOs since they began in Rangareddy and other districts in the state. Funds go towards advocacy, teacher training, school improvement, summer schools and collection of data on student enrolment and retention.

School enrolment soars

In Janwada village, where the model was introduced by MV Foundation in 1991, school enrolment has soared. In 1991, the village school enrolled 530 students — 352 boys and 178 girls. But by 1995, enrolment had more than doubled to 996 students, almost half of them girls. Nearly 90 per cent of Janwada's children are now in school.

"Every parent is now realizing that education is important for their child," said Mr. V. Malesha, president of the Janwada Education Committee. "Before, only the upper caste people used to send their children to school. The rest of the children had to work in agriculture or in family work. No one took the initiative to send their children to school."

In MV's programme, youth volunteers, aged 20 to 30, play an important role in changing parental attitudes about school. In Janwada, about 35 of them mobilize community support for education through street plays and door-to-door canvassing. They also help parents fill out school forms during enrolment times.

No less important to the model's

success in every village are the education committees elected by parents. The 15-member committees coordinate the school programmes and act as liaisons between administrators and parents. In Janwada, where the committee is particularly active in procuring new classroom space for the higher grades, members pestered the state government with daily telegrams in 1994 until it provided materials for a new classroom built by community volunteers.

Community gets involved

Thanks to strong community involvement, Janwada primary school has expanded to offer classes through grade 10 of secondary school. Parents have also agreed to pay salary and room and board for four new teachers so that class sizes can be reduced in grades 1 and 2.

"The next big challenge is to retain these children in school," said Girija Boddupalli of MV Foundation. She added that even more classrooms and teachers are needed, although it will be a while before the state government can help.

Meanwhile, children in neighbouring districts are also enjoying the benefits of MV's programme. In Chavella district, an MV programme in the village of Proddattur helped 14-year-old Manju leave her job and go to school for the first time in her life. Manju used to work 12-hour days, beginning at 5 a.m. as a flower picker earning Rs 10 (28 cents) a day, and continuing until early evening as a field worker on the estate of her family's landlord. In 1994, she began attending MV's non-formal night classes and decided she wanted to continue her education. The following year, with assistance from youth volunteers, she convinced her reluctant parents to let her attend an MV-run year-long residential camp.

She now studies at the camp, located in Chavella, the district capital, with 90 other girls aged 9 to 14. She hopes to pass the entrance exam to the formal secondary school. Her ultimate goal, she says, is to open her own business. The only threat to her education comes from her 18-year-old brother, who argues that Manju should be married, not in school. He pressures Manju to quit school when she comes home to visit.

But having struggled this far to improve her life, Manju refuses to budge from her goal. "I will definitely continue my studies," she declares. "I'll prove that my brother is wrong."

Laura Lorenz Hess writes frequently for UNICEF. She is based in New Delhi.



Almost half of Niger's population lack access to safe drinking water, but a strong education campaign is teaching people how to avoid infection with the water-borne parasite that causes guinea worm disease.

Niger's volunteers defeating guinea worm disease

By Alison James

Two unwelcome things happened shortly after 15-year-old Adiza Amadou got married. First her husband left for Côte d'Ivoire, where he may stay for years, following thousands of Niger men who have left their homeland in search of jobs. And before he left, the signs of her second woe were already starting to show: a painful blister on her ankle opened to reveal the tip of a guinea worm.

She was laid up for weeks, unable to harvest her crop of beans while the metre-long worm inched its way, agonizingly, out of her leg. "It was so painful I couldn't even crawl on all fours," she said later. "I caught it drinking pond water when I was out working in the fields."

But guinea worms like Ms. Amadou's are beginning to be a rarity in Niger. While three years ago there were more than 2,000 cases of guinea worm disease in her village of Boubon, this year there were only two cases among the 6,000 inhabitants. Although the disease remains endemic in 16 African countries and in India and Yemen, its global incidence has been reduced by more than 95 per cent over the past decade. In the mid-1980s there were estimated to be about 3.5 million cases in the world, but the figure was down to about 110,000 cases reported at the end of 1995. Officials believe it will be eradicated in a few years.

The decline of guinea worm disease is due partly to well-drilling projects that have increased access to safe water. But it is also due to a campaign that has enabled residents of villages like Boubon to prevent infection.

"We tried using pesticides to kill the crustaceans in ponds, but it was costly and unreliable," says Susana Sandoz, head of water and sanitation projects for UNICEF Niger. "Rain would dilute the pesticide, and there were so many water sources to treat that it was difficult to keep track."

Now there is a new approach: keeping those infected away from water sources and informing the population about how the parasite is transmitted and the importance of purifying drinking water. To make sure the message gets through to Niger's largely illiterate population, volunteers give practical demonstrations and distribute water filters free of charge.

"There isn't a child of seven here who doesn't know how to filter water," said Fatouma Younsa, a 39-year-old mother of four who oversees the awareness campaign. "They've seen so many demonstrations, they know it all by heart."

Said another villager, 35-year-old Maryama Amani, "We used to believe that guinea worm was a punishment from God, but now we know better and we can combat it."

In Niger, according to UNICEF estimates, the work of 2,000 volunteers in more than 800 villages helped to cut the number of cases by almost half since 1993. The decline is especially impressive given that nearly half the population in Niger lack access to safe drinking water. The effort, which began with a survey in 1991 to establish the extent of the disease, got under way in earnest in 1993.

The credibility of the eradication programme has soared since the introduction of a traditional cure that project workers discovered in Ghana: Tamale oil, named for the town it comes from. When Ms. Sandoz heard about it, she got hold of the recipe and started concocting the mix of vegetable oil, camphor balls, copper sulphate and ground Neem leaves in her own kitchen.

"Applied to the skin, the oil draws out the worm in days, a fraction of the time it usually takes," she said. "For people here, it is a magic remedy that has raised their confidence in the work of our volunteers."

Alison James is a journalist based in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire).

CONFERENCES

The Association for the Advancement of Policy, Research and Development in the Third World invites proposals for papers for the **Global Conference on Education for the 21st Century**, scheduled for 21-24 November 1996 at the Crystal Hotel, Cancun (Mexico). Deadline for submissions is 1 April 1996. For a list of topics, please contact: Dr. Mekki Mteawa, Executive Director, 1730 K Street NW., Suite 304, Washington, D.C. 20036, USA. Telephone: (202) 296-0947; or fax: (202) 331-3759.

The Second European Education for Peace Congress will be held in Lillehammer (Norway), 26-30 July 1996. The theme of the congress is 'Educating for Human Rights: From Vision to Reality'. Ideas for the workshops and

lecturers from all European countries are welcome. For a list of subtitles, registration forms and a programme, please contact: Kornhaug Norwegian Peace Center, Postboks 73, 2620 Follebu, Norway. Telephone: 47 61 22 09 64; or fax: 47 61 22 30 08.

The Overseas Development Group will be holding its annual advanced study workshop for professionals from 29 April to 24 May 1996. The theme is 'Planning for the Social and Economic Impact of HIV/AIDS in Developing Countries'. For further information, please contact: The Course Coordinator, Overseas Development Group, University of East Anglia, Norwich, NR4 7TJ, UK. Telephone: 44-1603-456410; fax: 44-1603-505262; or email: odg.gen@uea.ac.uk.

School stabilizes life in southern Sudan



School brings signs of life and a sense of normalcy to Poktap, a formerly abandoned village in war-ravaged southern Sudan.

By Julia Spry-Leverton

The community of Poktap in southern Sudan sits at the far end of the never-completed Jonglei Canal, a relic of the hope in the 1980s of a navigable south-north channel to link Sudan's distant extremities. Abandoned like so many other projects promising advancement at that time, the rusting heavy machinery and overgrown earthworks are eloquent testimony to how everything in southern Sudan has

stood still — or gone backwards since independence movements flared into factional fighting in 1983.

Natural disaster in the form of drought was added to the region's problems in recent years, and the protracted civil war shows no sign of ending. The result has been displacement on a massive scale. The combination of drought and rebel incursions is estimated to have killed 2,500 people and many of the cattle that provided them with food. The survivors went into the *toic*, swamplands

bordering the Nile. Here they can catch fish and eat wild foods to ensure their bare survival. But they cannot settle in the mosquito-infested territory, nor build houses there and raise crops.

Today there are signs of hope in nearby Poktap, which a year ago was uninhabited. As an insistent chorus against the great emptiness of southern Sudan's vast landscape, the sound of children's voices raised in song says a lot: that a community is re-establishing itself here, that children are enrolled in school and teachers are present to teach them the words of the chorus. A combination of improved recent harvests and the food aid that is channelled through Operation Lifeline Sudan (OLS) is responsible for the confidence people feel, allowing them to start rebuilding their lives here.

Southern Sudan's civil war, lasting now for over 12 years, has hit at the education of a whole generation of children. UNICEF estimates that half of primary school age children are not attending school. Poktap teacher Gabriel Deng says that 309 children are registered as pupils, but there are fewer than 100 in his 'classroom', a vast machine shop where industrial engines sit idle and

pupils perch on unused drainage pipes. "Their families take them along when they go to the *toic*," he says. "They help with fishing, hunting and finding the wild foods that we eat when there is no milk or meat from our cattle."

UNICEF is supporting training by international and Sudanese NGOs to build on the skills of the few educators who remain in the country, and to initiate others through workshops.

Mr. Deng has been invited to a week-long workshop at a town on the other side of the Nile. "More materials are what we need most," he says, handling his last three sticks of chalk. "I hear they will distribute books and materials for the children at the workshop. We already have some basic textbooks from UNICEF, but we need pens, pencils and exercise books."

His anticipation of the workshop cannot overcome his logistical concerns. "There are no roads, no cars on the route I have to take," he said. "I will be walking for two days to reach the workshop. How will I be able to bring back such heavy materials all this way?"

Julia Spry-Leverton writes frequently for UNICEF from Africa.

Sakhi: A friend in the US for South Asian immigrants

By Lisa Krug

"Why are we still leading our daughters to think that the natural progress of life is to seek a husband and get married? What about a woman's own self-growth, progress, career development and academic goals?"

—Signed 'A Sister of India', from a letter to Sakhi, June 1995

These thoughts are not typical of most female immigrants living in the United States, especially those from South Asia. But they amount to a survival creed for hundreds of such women who have seen their lives transformed by Sakhi, a New York-based organization committed to ending violence against women from South Asia.

Sakhi, which means 'woman friend'

in several South Asian languages, was founded in 1989 to lift the lid of silence and ignorance that subjects many women to violence, abuse and exploitation at home and on the job.

"Domestic violence is an isolating phenomenon," says Shamira (not her real name), who immigrated to the New York City area from Pakistan 14 years ago. Shamira joined Sakhi when she needed help with domestic abuse. "Immigrants often have no family, friends or way of finding help, especially when their abuser is their only adult family."

For abused and exploited women, Sakhi operates a telephone hot line, provides information about rights and offers support groups, immigration clinics and literacy classes. Women also receive referrals to lawyers, physicians, therapists, public assistance, employment services and language training pro-



Sakhi, a New York-based NGO that fights exploitation of women from South Asia, tries to provide a replacement for the strong, supportive communities women leave behind when they move to the West.

grammes. Monthly support groups provide an emotional lifeline for many members.

"Issues of domestic violence are very much hidden in the community," says Sonali Shroff, Sakhi's programme assistant, who came to the United States from India 20 years ago. "By revealing your personal experience with violence, you make yourself a public figure. It's a difficult step."

As of December 1995, Sakhi had helped over 500 women fight domestic violence, an impressive figure for a group operating on a yearly budget of just \$200,000 and with only one part-time and two full-time employees. But operating dollars go a long way for this small outfit, which relies on a growing cadre of lawyers and professionals who offer their services free. Sakhi also depends on its core of around 75 committed volunteers, many of them former clients.

The organization also helps women likely to be exploited or abused on the job. Among the worst-affected are domestic workers. A Sakhi leaflet spelling out the rights of domestic workers, both documented and not, informs them about everything from the minimum wage to unemployment insurance and filing complaints with the US Department of Labor. This advice is coupled with training sessions on how to negotiate for better pay and working conditions.

Staff members worry that state and federal budget cuts will shrink vital services for women. But Ms. Shroff, for one, intends to keep up the struggle. "If welfare reform limits our options, we'll just look for others," she says. "If there's one thing I've learned from my years as an advocate, it's to be persistent."

These days, thanks to Sakhi, sentiments like these are voiced by an increasing number of immigrant women of South Asian origin.

Catherine Langevin-Falcon is a Senior Information Assistant for UNICEF New York.

Lisa Krug is UNICEF's Consultant Features Editor.

Estimate of maternal deaths increased

By Catherine Langevin-Falcon

Researchers have raised their estimate of the number of women who die annually of pregnancy-related causes from 500,000 to 585,000 worldwide. The revised figure, reported in a study by UNICEF, WHO and Johns Hopkins University, results from the application of a new mathematical model in countries with no reliable data on maternal deaths and a revision of prior estimates to adjust for underreporting and misclassification in countries where data are incomplete.

According to the revised figures, South Asia has the highest absolute number of maternal deaths, with 223,000 a year, followed by sub-Saharan Africa, with 219,000. A woman in sub-Saharan Africa faces a 1 in 13 chance of dying in childbirth or pregnancy — 100 times the risk faced by a woman in Europe.

At the World Summit for Children in 1990, world leaders pledged to halve maternal mortality by the year 2000. But

no clear baseline figures existed, and measuring improvement has been difficult. In addition, maternal deaths that occur outside a health facility are not always recorded, or might be attributed to some other cause. Abortion-related deaths, another component of maternal mortality, are notoriously underreported.

"The data are plagued with underreporting and misclassification," said Tessa Wardlaw, co-author of the study and a UNICEF statistical officer. "Even in industrialized countries like the United States and France, there is an underreporting of maternal mortality by as much as 50 per cent, and in developing countries it could be as high as three times what is recorded. Therefore, monitoring progress towards the goal has been difficult." The new study will aid in establishing a more accurate baseline.

"Some areas — most countries in Latin America and some countries in the Middle East — have seen a decrease in the number of maternal deaths, but it is very difficult to judge its extent," said

Dr. France Donnay, UNICEF Senior Adviser on Women's Health. Credit for the decline in deaths is given to better functioning of health services; the greater numbers of physicians, nurses and midwives; the increase in the number of deliveries occurring at hospitals and other health facilities; and effective family planning programmes, reducing the number of pregnancies.

Given scarce resources and the difficulty of measuring maternal mortality, UNICEF and WHO recommend that governments focus more on monitoring indicators such as availability of, access to and use of emergency obstetric care services. "By itself, knowing the maternal mortality rate doesn't help you do anything to lower it," said Ms. Wardlaw. "But knowing how many emergency obstetric facilities there are and how well distributed they are provides useful information for remedying the problem."

The UNICEF Anti-war Agenda A vital step towards peace

In The State of the World's Children 1996, UNICEF proposed an Anti-war Agenda, a 10-point programme to protect children in times of war. Based on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Agenda emerges from UNICEF's belief that insisting on the rights of children is one of the best ways of reasserting core humanitarian values. Following is a summary of its points.

Prevention: A much more deliberate effort should be made to address the underlying causes of conflict and to invest resources in mediation and conflict resolution.

Girls and women: Specific measures are necessary to ensure the security of girls and women because of the terrible threat they face of sexual violence and rape.

Child soldiers: The minimum age for military recruitment specified in the Convention on the Rights of the Child is 15 years. UNICEF supports the adoption of an Optional Protocol that would raise this age to 18 years.

Land-mines: The production, use, stockpiling, sale and export of anti-personnel land-mines should be prohibited through international law.

War crimes: Recent years have seen the most barbaric acts of violence against children and other civilians. These must be denounced as they are revealed. Inter-

national war crimes tribunals must have both the support and the resources to bring perpetrators to justice.

Children as 'zones of peace': The idea of negotiating temporary cease-fires to bring humanitarian services — such as immunization programmes or food deliveries — to children in war zones has already proved an important tool of international diplomacy. It should be raised to a tenet of international humanitarian law.

Sanctions: A 'child-impact assessment' should be undertaken before economic sanctions are brought to bear on errant regimes, and all programmes of sanctions should be monitored regularly to gauge their impact on children.

Emergency relief: In situations of long-term conflict, aid should be seen as part of a process to help rebuild a society's capacity and promote development.

Rehabilitation: A deliberate effort is needed to demobilize both adult and child soldiers and to rebuild communities so that reconciliation is possible. As an important part of this rehabilitation, children's psychosocial needs must be addressed.

Education for peace: All countries should include in their school curricula methods of conflict resolution that develop mutual understanding and show how differences can be resolved without recourse to violence.



Three teenaged reporters from Children's Express, a US-based news service, experienced the devastation of Mostar during a recent trip to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Barbaric acts of violence against children and other civilians must be denounced.

A call for a new science: 'Public peace'

Two hundred years ago, there was a kind of violence that preoccupied us all and accounted for many, many millions more deaths (than from nuclear weapons), and that was natural violence, primarily epidemic disease, cholera, smallpox and plague. The science that was invented to deal with natural violence is called 'public health'. We need now to begin to develop a parallel science called 'public peace'.

This science would take from the public health system what there is to learn, and there is a great deal. We would have to start counting the dead and reporting to the world where we have found them. Public health begins with exactly that surveillance.

Similarly, with a science of public peace, we would need to keep track throughout the world of where man-made violence was breaking out, whether in Bosnia or Rwanda or elsewhere. Once that information becomes

available, the next step in public health is to analyse the data: what it tells you. Can it tell you what is causing the disease? Can it tell you where the disease might be controlled, what these vulnerable points are? I think you can see the obvious parallels.

Public health finally won acceptance in the world not because of moral virtue but because it worked, and I think that if there were a system called 'public peace', it would finally win similar support.

What we need is a science of public peace to enable us to go about the practical business of resolving human violence.

From a statement by Richard Rhodes, author of *The Making of the Atomic Bomb*, at the *Hiroshima World Citizens' Forum*, 6 August 1995. He was quoted in *Peace Culture*, a publication of the *Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation*.

Rwanda's boy soldiers

Out of limbo and into school

By Julia Spry-Leverton

Spending one's time hanging around playing football may sound like a dream come true for the average teenage boy. But the expressions on the faces of most of the football-playing boys newly assembled at a centre at Butare in southern Rwanda are far from joyful. Over a thousand of them mill round the compound. Most shoulder a small knapsack and are carrying a plastic plate and cup. The atmosphere is anxious, unsettled.

This is unsurprising, perhaps, since this is the new home for Rwanda's *kudogos* (Swahili for 'little ones'), the boy soldiers who became attached to the army forces during three months of civil war in mid-1994. At last, through a UNICEF collaboration with the Ministry of Defence, the time has come for them to leave the barracks and break their link with the military.

The boys' tattered uniforms are being exchanged for jeans and T-shirts, and through the UNICEF collaboration, they are

resuming their education. The transition is not an easy one, as these boys are hardly children any more. The story most tell is of witnessing attacks on their villages during which parents and neighbours were massacred. Escaping into the countryside, the boys ended up joining the opposing forces when they stumbled across them. Doing so was a form of self-preservation, but being in the company of fighting men encouraged violence and revenge.

Schools provide normalcy

To turn to school books may seem tame, but UNICEF education specialists believe it is the most normalizing activity possible, and therefore conducive to healing war-induced trauma. Lori Calvo, who heads UNICEF Rwanda's section for children in especially difficult circumstances, says, "Even when there is limited space — 60 boys will have to fit into a classroom — and little equipment, the important thing is to set up a schedule of lessons and build a routine." The 'school-in-a-box', a box of equipment with simple learning materials

Teenagers in Mostar: "We are the destroyed generation"

By Children's Express

In November 1995, three journalists from Children's Express, an award-winning US news service whose reporters are 8 to 18 years old, travelled to Bosnia and Croatia. Accompanied by UNICEF, they arrived just days after the initialling of the Dayton peace accord in Ohio. The three teenagers were in Mostar for one week, staying in shattered houses with young people who had lived through the war. Following is their report of discussions with teenagers from the Muslim and Croat neighbourhoods of the city.

By Dan Rosenheck (13), Sasha Whyte (14) and Megan Burke (15)

Mostar is a city divided by the war in Bosnia, like Berlin after World War II. At one point, the Croats and Muslims got together to fight off the Bosnian Serbs. Then they turned on each other.

Now, Muslims live on the east side of Mostar and Croats live on the west side. The Muslim neighbourhood is in ruins. The Croat neighbourhood is a little bit better, but the kids there seemed more displaced, as if they were more taken aback by the four-year-old war.

Working with UNICEF, Children's Express visited kids in East and West Mostar to learn about their experiences during the war. Before coming here we thought the kids would be different from us. But the scary thing is, they are not. It shows that war can happen anywhere and touch anybody.

We may never understand the controversy in Bosnia, but after talking to these kids, we've come away with an understanding of what war is and what it does to children.

Goran Beyanda, 13 (Mostar West): Some of my friends were Muslims. One day you'd play with them and the next day they were your enemies. It was terrible. I see a sad picture now. It isn't the same, it isn't happy. I see lots of houses destroyed and there are many people missing.

I'm not suffering like the other kids, like my nephew. He saw his neighbour kill his father. He says, "I can't live with them, they killed my father, they are monsters." I hope we will come together one day, maybe in 5 to 10 years when there will come a new generation of kids and people. We are the destroyed generation now.

Alem Priguda, 13 (Mostar East): I lost my brother in this war. That was the most horrible thing. I wouldn't like any children in any other country to survive what I survived. How can I forget that they killed my brother and lots of my cousins and friends? Would you forget?

We all want peace. Only the leaders in their sick brains don't want peace. But other people, the Croat and Serb civilians and the Muslim civilians, everybody wants peace.

Leon Mrsic, 13 (Mostar West): All of us are willing to forgive and continue to live a normal life. But a joint life between East and West is not possible now.

Before the war, I had a very good life. During the war, we went to school under bombing and hand-grenades, and that was very difficult. We had to continue with our lives, that's why we went to school. We didn't think about the danger. It was just a way of life in that time. Now it's much better.

Mia Maslo, 13 (Mostar East): It's the politicians' fault. They started this and they live in warm houses where there is no shooting. They just sit there and watch us get killed.

My mother and sister and I were separated from my father for three years. A lot of my friends were killed. I saw my cousin's husband die. I was in my uncle's

house and a grenade came in and his arms and legs just got blown up.

Lana Hamzic, 13 (Mostar West): Before the war, I didn't even know what war was exactly. In a way I feel much older now. I know more about things.

The town is not the same anymore. Mostar has changed. The people are more afraid and nervous now than before. Even when you slam the door, someone will be scared about the noise, thinking it's a grenade or a bomb.

Myra Jelin, 14 (Mostar East): Everybody saw how it was in the war. The Croats made aggression on us. We didn't kill the Croats because we wanted to; we defended our people.

At first, the Croats were fighting with us. Then the Croats started to fight against us and we were like a sandwich here in Mostar: from one side were the Serbs and from the other the Croats. We felt betrayed.

To live together again we must forgive the Croats for their crimes. But we will never forget. Somewhere in us will be a memory of all this suffering.

Adnan Rahimich, 13 (Mostar East): On 8 May 1993, I came to the west side and my family was on the east side. The war began with the Muslims and Croats and I couldn't get back. I had to leave Mostar and stay with my grandparents. I didn't know if my parents were alive. One year later, the Red Cross helped me find them and I came back to Mostar.

I don't know really why it's happened. Everybody knows war is bad. Maybe some people think it's not so bad, but how can somebody think like that when many children are dead?

People think Bosnia is like an orange. You can cut her in many parts and say this is for you, this is for you and all this is for me. No, Bosnia is not like an orange.

I don't know why this happened. People wanted Bosnia for themselves, but they were stupid for starting this.



A poster, part of a UNICEF-assisted peace education campaign in Afghanistan, warns people of the dangers of land-mines. An estimated 110 million mines threaten people's lives around the world.

UNICEF boycotts land-mine companies

As part of its effort to make the Anti-war Agenda a tool for action, UNICEF has announced a new policy prohibiting the organization from doing business with companies that manufacture or sell anti-personnel land-mines. An estimated 110 million land-mines threaten people's lives and well-being in 64 countries, and the devices have maimed or killed more than 1 million people since 1975.

The policy was announced in December 1995 at the launch of *The State of the World's Children 1996*. Calling land-mines inhumane, UNICEF Executive Director Carol Bellamy said they injure or

kill "hundreds of thousands of innocents who have gone for water or firewood, tried to cultivate fields or walked a path to a village or school." Children account for many of the estimated 1,800 land-mine victims killed or disabled each month.

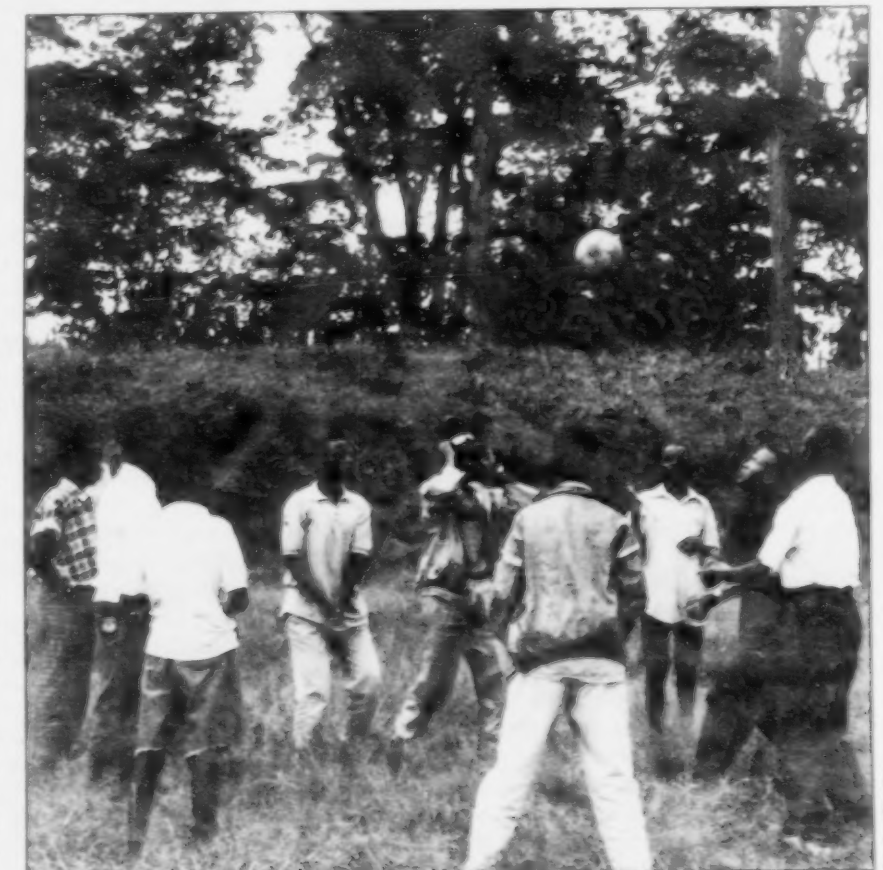
Planted in or above ground during conflict, the small, inexpensive devices can remain active for several decades. Some anti-personnel land-mines look like toys, so children are often drawn to them. In some areas, children scavenge them for scrap metal.

Companies wishing to do business with UNICEF must now include in all bids, proposals and purchase orders a guarantee

that they do not make or sell land-mines or their components. The measure targets dozens of companies engaged in the billion-dollar industry, many with wide name recognition.

The boycott has also been adopted by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

To assist young land-mine victims, UNICEF provides medical care, artificial limbs and physical and psychosocial therapy. These measures form part of the protection and care guaranteed to war-affected children by the Convention on the Rights of the Child, ratified by 187 countries as of February 1996.



At a UNICEF-assisted centre for former child soldiers in Butare in southern Rwanda, 1,000 boys learn to replace military life with education, sports and community activities.

Turning gold medals into gold: Atlanta Olympic Aid-1996

This July, the eyes of the world will turn to Atlanta (US) where close to 10,000 athletes representing almost every country in the world will compete for the glory of Olympic gold. But the Centennial Olympic Games will be much more than a sporting event. The Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (ACOG), the organizers of the 1996 Summer Olympics, is collaborating with UNICEF and the US Committee for UNICEF in a special initiative designed to raise funds to help alleviate the plight of millions of children affected by war.

Atlanta Olympic Aid-1996 was launched by ACOG in Atlanta in November 1995. It is now inspiring many UNICEF National Committees, which are cooperating with their respective National Olympic Committees, to focus on children's needs at the time of the 1996 Olympics. Part of their efforts will include raising awareness in schools.

"In presenting the 1996 Games, ACOG hopes to bring the people of the world closer together through the bonds

of friendship and to create a positive influence for children and young adults," said Billy Payne, president and chief executive officer of ACOG. "We want to extend the goodwill created by the Olympic Games to help children affected by war."

The fact that Atlanta Olympic Aid-1996 has become a reality is in large part thanks to the efforts of Norwegian speed skater Johann Olav Koss, a five-time Olympic medallist. Mr. Koss has been a champion of children since the 1994 Winter Olympic Games in Lillehammer, where he donated his bonus money and stimulated charitable giving in Norway. As a UNICEF Special Representative for Sports, Mr. Koss is now dedicating himself to raising funds, as well as securing the support of other athletes for Atlanta Olympic Aid-1996.

UNICEF will use the funds raised to provide urgently needed medicines, immunization, educational and recreational programmes as well as counselling for an estimated 18 million children in 14 war-torn countries.



Two Bangladeshi scouts teach ORT use to a mother with a sick child.

Scouts: Promoting ORT by the millions

By Sharon Slater

In 1993, the community development director of the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM) attended a symposium on oral rehydration therapy organized by USAID, UNICEF and PAHO. What Abdoulaye Sar heard at that meeting persuaded him that the Scouts could play a role in bringing about universal use of ORT in treating diarrhoeal dehydration. WOSM signed a formal agreement with UNICEF in May 1994, and by the end of 1995 the Scouts were promoting ORT in more than 20 countries around the world.

"Despite their youth, Scouts have formidable potential as promoters," said Mr. Sar. With 25 million members in virtually all parts of 160 countries, they are the quintessential grass-roots organization: they are integrally connected to their communities, with knowledge of which families lack water or have small children or have a pregnancy in process; they work person-to-person, which is one of the most effective forms of communication; they speak the local language; and they are very well organized.

"The Scouts are one of our best allies in the campaign for universal ORT usage," said Dr. Monica Sharma, UNICEF senior adviser on child health. "Their enthusiasm and commitment win

people over, and Scouts are trusted as part of the community."

WOSM and UNICEF collaborated to produce a manual to teach the Scouts about ORT. The manual is currently available in English and French.

Among the Scouts' activities have been the following:

- Moroccan Scouts were among the first to take up ORT, presenting a declaration of commitment to the Princess of Morocco at a meeting on the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1994. During June and July 1995, the local peak diarrhoea season, they contacted 13,000 families with ORT information. One troop packed ORS supplies on the backs of mules and took a six-day trek to promote ORT.
- During Pakistan's first National ORT Week in 1995, 48,000 trained Scouts (10,000 Girl Guides, 38,000 Boy Scouts) spread the word about ORT to hundreds of thousands of families in 20 districts.
- Papua New Guinea's national television and radio gave top coverage to the Scout Association's ORT campaign. Scouts make patrols to remote villages to spread the word about ORT.
- In Nigeria, more than 48,000 Scouts have been trained in ORT promotion. Among other things, they plan to organize a school ORT quiz, establish kiosks in rural areas and mobilize teachers and market women.

An 'artist' in every office



The picture above is one of 3,500 images from the new UNICEF Illustration CDROM, recently distributed to all field offices and National Committees. It contains drawings, cartoons and country maps contributed by artists in 40 countries. The illustrations, ranging from breastfeeding babies to hand-pump parts, were compiled by the Information/Communication Officer in the Caribbean Area Office, George McBean, to make them easily accessible for use in publications. All that is needed to use the CDROM is a computer that runs Windows and has a CDROM drive. Anyone with a little 'mouse skill' can modify the drawings to suit a variety of needs. The illustrations are indexed in a companion catalogue. NGOs may obtain the CDROM and catalogue from the Communication and Social Mobilization Section, UNICEF, 3 UN Plaza, New York, NY 10017, USA. Fax: (212)702-7145; email: sluciani@igc.apc.org.

NEWS BRIEFS

USAID cuts endanger family planning programmes

Recent US legislation, signed by President Clinton, will cut USAID's family planning budget by 35 per cent for the fiscal year that began on 1 October 1995. Officials at the agency say it will result in reductions not only for family planning programmes but also for maternal health care and AIDS prevention.

The measure will cut USAID funds for family planning to \$360 million for the fiscal year that ends on 30 September 1996. The previous year's budget was \$550 million. Overall, the United States provides 45 per cent of all international aid for family planning programmes. The US is also sharply reducing its support for the UN Population Fund (UNFPA). — From a New York Times report

'Old' malaria drug proves more effective than chloroquine

An anti-malarial drug in use for 20 years in China has proven nearly twice as effective as the commonly used chloroquine in tests in Cameroon, raising hopes of a truly effective treatment for malaria in Africa, where it kills a million people a year.

The drug, pyronaridine, was also shown to be effective in areas where the malarial parasite is resistant to more common drugs, including chloroquine. Results of the trials were published in *The Lancet* in January.

The trial compared the effects of pyronaridine and chloroquine among adults in the early stages of malaria at

a hospital in Yaounde. All 40 of the patients treated with pyronaridine responded to the treatment; symptoms ceased and the malarial parasites cleared from the blood. Of the 41 treated with chloroquine, symptoms disappeared in 59 per cent of the patients and parasites disappeared from the blood in 44 per cent. Side effects in both groups, including headaches and itching, were treatable with aspirin and antihistamines. More data will be needed before pyronaridine can be registered for use outside China. In addition, the drug costs three times more than chloroquine.

— From an IPS report

UNICEF to support improved care for Chinese orphans

UNICEF and the Chinese Government have reached an agreement aimed at improving the care of orphans and disabled children living in Chinese Child Welfare Institutes. The cooperation will provide assistance to identify orphanages most at risk, improve staff training and rehabilitation services, and establish appropriate management standards and procedures.

In each of the country's 30 provinces, an existing Child Welfare Institute will be upgraded to serve as a model and resource centre. In addition, the existing National Training and Rehabilitation Centres will develop training curricula and materials as well as management procedures for the orphanages. They will also train trainers who will then assist in training and supervising staff in their own provinces.

- Bolivia's Scouts are developing a community health programme called Scouts Health Watch, modelled on one in Colombia. Each troop will 'adopt' a neighbourhood, and each Scout will visit specific families regularly for a year, delivering ORT and other health messages and checking on vaccinations.
- Through the Promotion of ORT Project,

Bangladeshi Scouts are targeting a million households with ORT information. In teams of three, they work in villages house to house, raising a white flag when the whole village has been reached.

Sharon Slater is a health officer for UNICEF Bolivia.

Beyond ratification: Implementing the Convention

Viet Nam: Honouring child rights

Convention on the Rights of the Child ratified: 1990

Viet Nam signed the Convention the first day it was opened for signature, 26 January 1990, and one month later, on 28 February 1990, became the first country in Asia and the second country in the world to ratify it.

Fully accepting the human rights standards set forth in the Convention, Viet Nam made no reservations to any of its articles, contrary to many countries, both industrialized and developing.

This commitment to honour children's rights has continued in the post-ratification era during economic reforms currently under way. Viet Nam upholds human development as key to sustainable social and economic development.

Social-sector spending has increased during 1986-1995, with programmes for health, education and poverty alleviation receiving increased funding. Publicity about children's rights received a boost recently when the Prime Minister decreed that health and education messages be broadcast free of charge. Under the 1992 Constitution, children's rights to protection, care and education are considered fundamental.

Recent actions in support of child rights:

Monitoring

- The Committee for the Protection and Care of Children (CPCC), established at national, provincial, district and commune levels, is well placed to monitor Convention implementation. Its members include the Vice-President of the Council of Ministers, Minister of Health, Vice-Minister of Education, Vice-President of the Women's Union



UNICEF/UNHCR

and General Secretary of the Youth Union.

The Committee assists the Government in improving child-related policies, ensures that government agencies coordinate their activities with NGOs and solicits support from international organizations for child-related programmes. The Committee also has operational responsibility in the areas of children in especially difficult circumstances and child nutrition.

- A system of child rights indicators is being developed to collect disaggregated data on child rights, with support from CPCC, the General Statistics Office, Research Centre for Sociology and Information, UNICEF and Childwatch International.

Education

- Child-centred approaches are promoted in primary schools. As part of the Government's effort to achieve univer-

sal primary education among ethnic minorities, UNICEF supported the development of training modules for pre-service and in-service training for teachers in ethnic minority schools. The modules emphasized student participation and group work. Provisions are also made to provide schooling for mentally handicapped children, and child psychology is slowly gaining acceptance.

- The 1992 Constitution was the first to address children's rights specifically. It states that "children enjoy protection, care and education by the family, state and society" and prohibits discrimination against children. Drafters of the Constitution were trained about the Convention with support from CPCC and UNICEF, and they participated in preparing Viet Nam's report on Convention implementation.

- In August 1991, the National Assembly adopted a law on the protection, care and education of children that provided a legal mandate for CPCC's monitoring role. Also in 1991, a law was adopted mandating universal, free primary education.

Juvenile justice

- A review of judicial processes for juveniles was conducted with support from CPCC, the Ministry of Justice, Swedish Save the Children and UNICEF. The review resulted in a systematic amendment of all legal documents related to juvenile justice and triggered discussions about establishing a juvenile court. In 1995, with support from Swedish Save the Children and UNICEF, 150 judges, correctional officers, social workers and law enforcement officials were trained on the practical application of the Convention with

children in conflict with the law. A two-week basic course has been developed for personnel working with children in conflict with the law.

Disseminating the Convention

- Conferences to raise public awareness of the Convention were organized by CPCC; the Ministries of Health, Education and Culture; the Youth, Women's, Farmers' and Trade Unions; and the Red Cross Society.

- The children's newspaper *Young Pioneer* and magazine *Pupil Flower*, as well as books published by Kim Dong children's publishing house, conveyed Convention provisions in child-friendly formats. In 1992, a competition entitled "What do you know about the Convention on the Rights of the Child?" was held through the Young Pioneers Association. Basic questions about the Convention were published in a nationally distributed newspaper. Based on these questions, child rights and the Convention were discussed in schools nationwide. About 300,000 children mailed in written responses to the contest.

Call for submissions

Please submit examples of initiatives to implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child to: Maissa Hamed, Child Rights Section, UNICEF House, H-6F, 3 UN Plaza, New York, NY 10017; email: mhamed@igc.apc.org.

Convention on the Rights of the Child ratified: 1990

Pakistan: Greater attention to human rights

Amidst the turmoil of development, Pakistan has taken several measures to strengthen its support of the rights of children and women. As one of the initiators of the 1990 World Summit for Children, Pakistan has recently expanded its focus on human rights, human development and gender issues, according to a national report following the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, September 1995).

At Beijing, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto announced that Pakistan would soon become a signatory of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

The Committee on the Rights of the Child reviewed Pakistan's report on implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in April 1994. Pakistan adopted many of the Committee's suggestions, aimed at making national laws and policies compatible with the Convention.

Recent actions in support of child rights:

Intent to withdraw reservation

- Upon ratification in November 1990,

Pakistan made a general reservation stating that "Provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child shall be interpreted in light of the principles of Islamic laws and values." In 1995, the Ministry of Justice and the Council of Islamic Ideology approved the withdrawal of Pakistan's reservation.

Monitoring

- The National Commission on Child Welfare and Development works to coordinate policies and programmes relating to Convention implementation. The Commission has established committees that represent social sector ministries, NGOs, lawyers, human rights activists and the media. An NGO forum is being set up to ensure effective participation of NGOs at all levels.

- At the provincial level, Commissions for Child Welfare and Development have been established with government and non-government representation to oversee Convention implementation.

- A district-based data collection system to monitor child rights violations is being developed with UNICEF support in collaboration with government agencies, NGOs, human rights activists and

research institutions. Data will be provided by social welfare officers; district health, education and other social sector officials; NGOs; community leaders; and families, including children.

Juvenile justice

- The National Commission on Child Welfare and Development, in consultation with NGOs and legal experts, drafted legislative changes to the juvenile justice law, which was approved by the federal Cabinet in 1995 for presentation to Parliament. The legislation calls for abolition of capital punishment for children below 16 years and makes social welfare departments responsible for the rehabilitation of juvenile offenders.

- A UNICEF-supported pilot training programme was conducted in June 1995 for 35 judges and lawyers to encourage incorporation of the principle of 'best interests of the child' in all legal matters related to children.

Disseminating the Convention

- Since 1990, a series of seminars at the national, provincial and district level has been conducted to create awareness about the Convention among govern-



UNICEF/UNHCR

ment officials, NGOs, the media and the public at large, and especially about the obligations of the State and communities in guaranteeing children's rights. The seminars were organized by national and provincial Commissions for Child Welfare and Development with support from UNICEF.

- Girl Guides and Boy Scouts are being trained about child rights, particularly girls' rights. During the next two years, 50,000 Boy Scouts and 100,000 Girl Guides will be trained.



Cuba makes progress in reaching World Summit goals

By Paul McCleary

Against a backdrop of worsening economic conditions, Cuba is boosting health care, education, and water and sanitation services for its children. Short of money and supplies, the country is relying on its long-standing network of community-based organizations to maintain high standards of care for children and to achieve the goals set forth at the 1990 World Summit for Children.

In June 1995, Cuba took stock of its progress in meeting its World Summit commitments in the Third Follow-up and Evaluation study, an annual assessment begun in 1993. Cuba invited delegates from international NGOs and a UNICEF National Committee to participate in its evaluation, becoming the first Government to do so.

Among the delegates were representatives of the Spanish Committee for UNICEF and a network of seven US-based NGOs, including Catholic Relief Services, ForChildren, Church World Service, Feed the Children, Heifer Project International, Global Exchange and the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

The three major areas of focus

were public health, education, and safe water and sanitation.

Health: For over 30 years Cuba has provided free health care to all Cubans. Today, the strength of the country's medical care system rests on a solid foundation of preventive care based on 25,000 doctors — each one watching over the health care of 120 families.

This system enables Cuba to alleviate the impact of deteriorating hospital services and the shortage of medications and to maintain universal child immunization and its low infant mortality rate of 9 per 1,000 births, which places Cuba among the top 27 countries in terms of IMR.

However, maternal mortality rates rose sharply, from an average of 30 in the early 1990s to a rate of 44 deaths per 100,000 births in 1994, according to government figures. Cuba has responded to this crisis — which reflects declining nutritional levels for girls and women, especially iron intake — with an aggressive programme of pre- and postnatal care. The Government is also strengthening its national system of community-based maternity homes and baby-friendly hospitals, now totalling 40, that promote healthful practices such as preventive care and breastfeeding.

A recent visit to a maternity centre in Piñar del Rio, Cuba's westernmost province, demonstrated the importance of preventive education. A wall in the centre's lobby was covered with charts of the '10 Steps' promoted in the baby-friendly hospital initiative. Other centres provided lively staff-training programmes and innovative curriculum development for health practitioners.

Education: Though schools have been hit hard by shortages of paper, pencils and other supplies, Cuba has maintained its high rate of enrolment in the Government's free, high-quality primary and secondary schools.

Cuba has also achieved rapid progress in preschool education, enrolling 72 per cent of its children under five in some form of preschool programme. One home-based initia-



Cuban children do exercises at a primary school in Havana.

tive, 'Educate Your Child', has the active participation of family members (including many fathers) in their children's preschool enrichment and education.

According to the Third Follow-up and Evaluation report, family members participating in the project have already shown increased sensitivity towards their children's needs and behaviour.

Water and sanitation: Limited availability of fuel, combined with an acute shortage of water-purification chemicals and building and repair materials, has impeded Cuba's ability to provide safe water and sanitation in both urban and rural areas. Many aqueducts have broken down, and repairs are slowed by a shortage of parts.

In rural areas, new aqueducts are being built through the cooperative efforts of national and local agencies and community and youth groups. In addition, simple technologies such as windmills, rope pumps and winches are being introduced to help families collect water. Both efforts avoid the high costs associated with transporting

water by truck over long distances.

Since the situation in Cuba is complex and change is constant, the delegation hopes to make future visits to better assess Cuba's progress in implementing the Convention, as well as to build bridges between Cuba and the international community. The Cuban Government is showing increasing openness to United Nations agencies and NGOs outside the country in its efforts to address the needs of children and families. Inside the country, a growing number of independent NGOs are springing up to assist with the task.

The delegation plans to create a network of US-based NGOs interested in supporting Cuba's efforts. This network will strengthen information-sharing among NGOs and provide a reserve for united action.

Paul McCleary, a member of the delegation that visited Cuba, is President of the US-based NGO ForChildren, Inc., which assists governments in developing strategies to carry out their World Summit national plans of action.



A boy eats lunch at the Angela Landa primary school in Havana.

EVENTS

Caring for Indigenous Children: Capacity Building to Support Indigenous Children's Rights. University of Victoria, British Columbia (Canada), 16-22 June 1996.

This workshop will use the Convention on the Rights of the Child to examine holistic, traditional concepts and methods that bolster strong family and community support for the protection and well-being of indigenous children. Co-sponsored by the School of Children and Youth Care and UNICEF. For more information, contact: William Wright, Aboriginal Liaison Officer, or Phillip Cook, Ph.D., University of Victoria, P.O. Box 1700, MS 7979, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada V8W 2Y2. Tel:

(604) 721-7979; fax: (604) 721-7218.

The Fifth International Week for Children's Rights in the Global Economy. Montreal (Canada), 25-30 June 1996.

Sponsored and coordinated by Defense for Children International Canada, the Week will probe the relationship between the conditions necessary for children to exercise their rights and the economic practices and policies that shape their day-to-day lives. Registration fee: \$300 non-member; \$250 member; and \$75 for anyone under 18. For information, contact: DCI-Canada 1996, c/o Coplanor Congres, Inc, 511 Place d'Armes #600; Montreal, QC H2Y

2W7. Tel: (514) 848-1133; fax: (514) 288-6469; e-mail: dci@coplanor.qc.ca.

The Twenty-seventh International Conference on Social Welfare. Hong Kong, 29 July - 3 August 1996.

Co-sponsored by the International Council on Social Welfare and Hong Kong Council of Social Service, the conference, 'Societies in Transition — Development in a Political, Economic and Social Context', will feature workshops and field visits. Topics include: implications of disparities and dislocations (north-south, post-industrial societies, developing economies, marginal groups and others); values and visions (human rights, equality, social integration); and actors and political processes (roles of elites and bureaucrats, 'haves' and 'have-nots' and NGOs).

Registration is \$350. For more information, contact: Secretariat, 27th

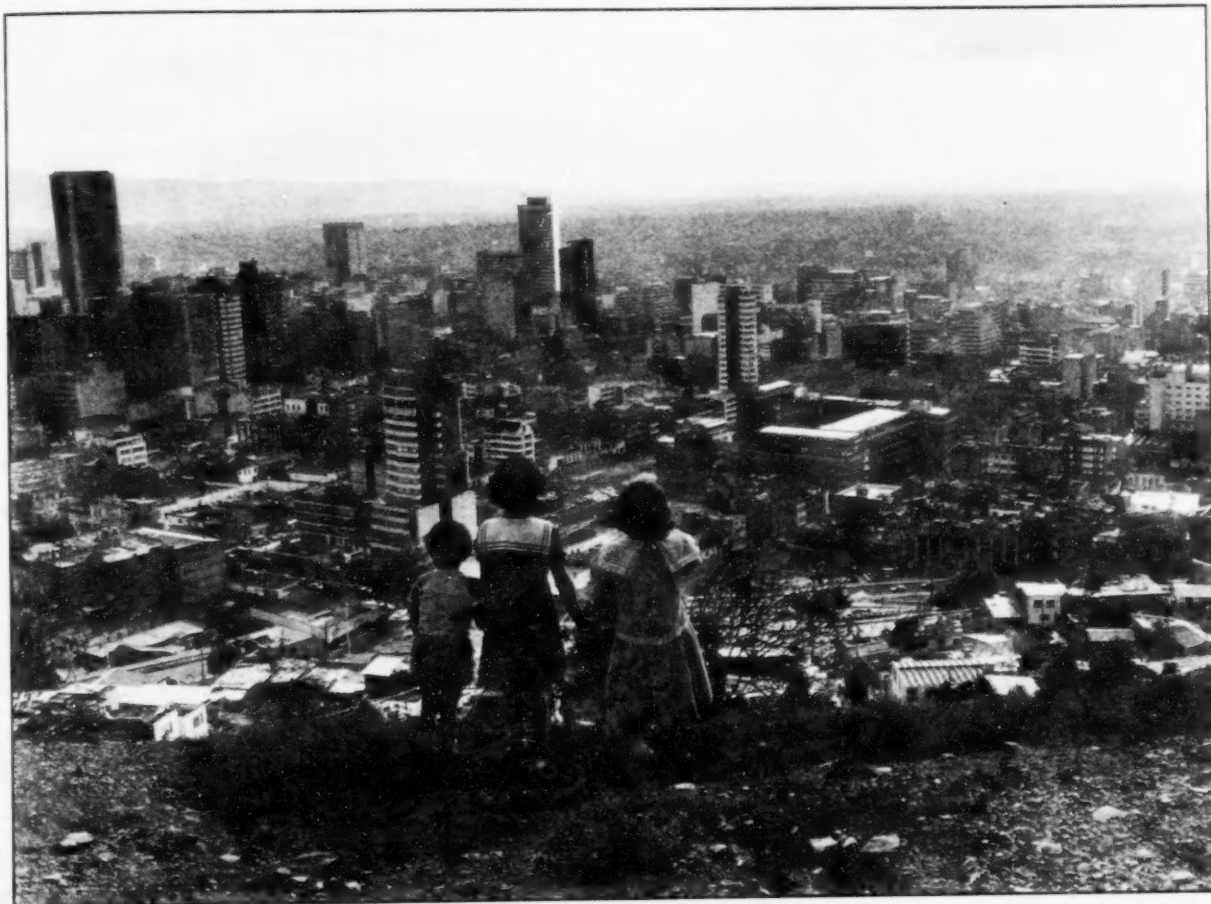
ICSW International Conference, International and Regional Affairs Dept., Hong Kong Council of Social Service, 13/F, Duke of Windsor Social Service Building, 15 Hennessy Road, Wancha, Hong Kong. Tel: (852) 2-864-2929; fax: (852) 2-528-4230.

The Eighteenth World Congress of Rehabilitation International. Auckland (New Zealand), 16-20 September 1996.

The conference, 'Equality through Participation — 2000 and Beyond', will focus on building environments that enable people with disabilities to have the same freedom of choice and action as the rest of their community. The major themes will be access, human rights and vision. For information, contact: 18th World Congress of RI, PO Box 2009, Auckland, New Zealand. Tel and fax: 9-376-1980.

Habitat II: Where are the children?

RESOURCES



Children look out on the city of Bogotá (Colombia). NGOs will be looking out for the needs and rights of urban children at the global Habitat II conference in June.

By Carol Smolenski

For the vast numbers of children living in urban areas, the second UN Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), convening in June 1996 in Istanbul, comes not a moment too soon.

The problems urban children face are well known — homelessness, living and working on the street, exploitive and hazardous jobs, sexual abuse and exploitation, street violence, drug and alcohol abuse and environmental deterioration.

All of these problems are associated with the runaway growth of urban areas due to poverty and massive rural-urban migration. In the harsh urban settings of both developing and industrialized countries, a family's struggle for survival is often a losing battle.

An increasing proportion of children grapple with urban problems. *Urban Children in Distress* (UNICEF 1994) provides some alarming data: of the 600 million people living in life-threatening urban situations, including squatter settlements, 45 per cent are children. At the current rate of increase, by the year 2025, 60 per cent of the developing world's children will be born in urban centres.

Children nearly excluded

Given the growing numbers and vulnerability of urban children, it seems logical to place their needs high on the agenda of Habitat II. Yet, children are nearly excluded from the Conference's preparatory meetings and proposals. Indeed, a recent draft of the agenda (October 1995) barely acknowledges that children live in cities at all.

The same neglect is found in the Conference's Draft Global Plan of Action, which addresses many critical topics related to poverty and unemployment — without mentioning work-

ing children. The document goes on to discuss the problems of an unhealthy environment — but not its impact on children. Changes in urban transportation are proposed without mentioning how to make cities more child-friendly. These omissions are incomprehensible in light of the near-universal ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which calls on the international community to place children's needs first.

This message has been largely ignored by planners of Habitat II. At the First Preparatory Committee (PrepCom I) meeting in Geneva in April 1995, Wally N'Dow, Secretary-General of the Conference, set forth ambitious expectations. He expressed hope that the Conference would result in a higher level of awareness and greater commitment to solving the terrible problems created by the urban revolution now transforming the globe. But except for a passing reference to street children mentioned in a long list of 'vulnerable groups', he made it seem as if children have no stake in the outcome of urban policy.

He also omitted children when he called for new partnerships among national and local governments, NGOs, the private sector and community and women's groups. This oversight comes despite the fact that for years NGOs and UNICEF have championed increased participation of youth and children in decisions affecting their lives, as required by article 12 of the Convention.

The April 1995 PrepCom II in Nairobi placed greater emphasis on children's rights and needs. At the meeting, the Child Rights Caucus, a small but vocal and influential group of NGOs, lobbied government delegates, who responded very positively. The Caucus also submitted a resolution to the UN Commission on Human

Settlements calling for "concrete measures towards the full realization of children's right to adequate housing." The resolution was passed by the full Commission.

For the third and final PrepCom in New York in February 1996, several groups, including the Child Rights Caucus, worked to further the cause of children at Habitat II. UNICEF, for one, held an expert seminar on Children's Rights, Housing and Neighbourhood to address children's rights in urban areas. In June, at the Conference, the NGO Committee on UNICEF will hold a workshop called "Women and Children in Urban Poverty — What Way Out?"

Coordinated efforts

The poor representation of children in the plans and PrepComs of Habitat II makes it clear that children's issues will not find their way onto the international agenda without constant and concerted effort. Their growing presence at recent UN world conferences, especially the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, is largely the result of coordinated efforts of UNICEF and NGOs, working from the time of the first PrepCom until the Platform of Action was finalized to ensure that children's rights and welfare received top priority.

With so little time remaining before Habitat II, this is no moment to rest. NGOs unable to attend the Conference can still help prepare for it by making sure their government delegations do not leave children out in the cold.

Carol Smolenski is New York representative for Defense for Children International and Chairperson of the Child Rights Caucus at Habitat PrepCom III.

A Guide to Promoting Resilience in Children: Strengthening the Human Spirit, by Edith Grotberg. This publication grows out of a 14-country International Resilience Project, which revealed that fewer than half the adults caring for children promote resilience in them. Based on the findings of the project, this guide will assist programmes and individuals to incorporate promotion of trust, independence and self-confidence into their work with children. Copies are available from the Bernard van Leer Foundation, PO Box 82334, 2508 EH The Hague, the Netherlands. Tel: (31) 070-351-2040; fax: (31) 070-350-2373.

International Responses to Traumatic Stress, edited by Yael Danieli, Nigel S. Rodley and Lars Weishaeth, with a Foreword by UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. On the occasion of the UN Fiftieth Anniversary, this carefully researched and often impassioned collection of essays by NGOs and various UN agencies covers the multiple facets and responses to psychosocial trauma caused by natural disasters and violence. Two chapters deal specifically with children: 'Helping Child Victims of Violence', by NGO contributors, and 'A Rights Approach to Healing the Invisible Wounds of War', contributed by UNICEF authors. Copies cost \$46 and are available from Baywood Publishing Company, 26 Austin Avenue, PO Box 337, Amityville, New York 11701, USA. Tel: (800) 638-7819; fax: (516) 691-1770.

Surviving Violence: A Recovery Programme for Children and Families, by Shirley Fozzard, edited and published by International Catholic Child Bureau (ICCB). This book describes the process of assessment, intervention and evaluation taken with Mozambique refugees in the Ukwimi Refugee Settlement in Zambia from 1989 to 1994. The community-based programme evolved from continuous cooperation among various groups — expatriates, refugees and Zambian hosts — to define problems, identify strengths and resources and develop strategies that were culturally appropriate, inexpensive and sustainable. Copies are \$12 and are available from ICCB, 866 UN Plaza, Suite 529, New York, NY 10017, USA.

NGO Action for Children

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RESOURCES

UNICEF Publications

Available from UNICEF, Division of Information, 3 UN Plaza, New York, NY 10017, USA.

Available in English unless otherwise noted.

Pakistan National Report on Women, published by UNICEF Pakistan. This report was prepared by the Government of Pakistan in collaboration with UNICEF Islamabad. Despite women's participation in the struggle for independence and measures taken by the Government, women in Pakistan continue to face discrimination and a lack of autonomy, says the report. It also discusses topics addressed at UN conferences involving women's issues: poverty, inequality, denial of human rights, lack of freedom and justice, and the absence of peace and security. Available from UNICEF Islamabad, Pakistan. Fax: (92 51) 21 9565.

Think about it is a series of brochures addressed to students in grades 5 to 9. The brochures encourage honest, open communication about major issues facing young people and aim to help them develop self-confidence. A companion series, **Let's talk**, addresses younger students. The two series also include a teacher's book offering ideas on methodology. For copies, please contact UNICEF Zimbabwe. Fax: (263-4) 731-849.

Innocenti Publications

The following publications are available from the International Child Development Centre, Spedale degli Innocenti, Piazza SS. Annunziata 12, 50122 Florence, Italy. Fax: (39-55) 24 48 17.

Implementing the Convention on the Rights of the Child: Resource Mobilization in Low-Income Countries, edited by James Himes with a foreword by Thomas Hammarberg. The publication focuses largely on article 4 of the Convention, which deals with the obligations of States Parties to meet their commitments "to the maximum extent of their available resources

and, where needed, within the framework of international co-operation." ISBN 90-411-0090-3.

Market Reforms and Social Welfare in the Czech Republic: A True Success Story?, by Miroslav Hirs, Jiri Rusnok and Martin Fassmann. Innocenti Occasional Paper No. 50 is part of the special sub-series, 'Economies in Transition'. It reports on economic and social policy and the development of social conditions in the Czech Republic since the November 1989 'Velvet Revolution'.

Poverty, Children and Policy: Responses for a Brighter Future is the third regional monitoring report in the 'Economies in Transition' series. It describes the main policy changes in Central and Eastern Europe between 1989 and early 1995. The report also proposes a set of policies for a 'transition with a human face' that would help overcome the current difficulties in a reasonable period of time and with limited welfare losses.

Achieving Gender Equality in Families: The Role of Males is the report of the UNICEF Global Innocenti Seminar held at the University of the West Indies in Kingston (Jamaica) in May 1995. The report highlights how the seminar encouraged discussion about the male role in achieving gender equality in families and how it contributed to the exchange of ideas and experiences in this relatively new field. In addition, the report shows how UNICEF, governments and NGOs can work together to strengthen the role of men in families.

Other Publications

Children — War and Persecution (Proceedings of the international congress), Hamburg, Germany, 294 pages. This publication is a compilation of over 40 articles resulting from a September 1993 conference of the same name, organized by the Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the Hamburg University Clinic. Topics include the psychic suffering of children who have experienced war, torture and persecution. The

six sections range from diagnosis to how families and societies handle traumatic experiences to the possibilities of therapeutic treatment. Available for DM98 from Secolo Verlag, Kommen-derstr. 41, D-49074 Osnabrück, Germany. Fax: 0049-541-293 54.

Working with Street Children: Selected Case-studies from Africa, Asia and Latin America, published by UNESCO. This collection of 18 projects is presented without commentary to allow readers to draw their own conclusions and parallels based on their experiences. Please contact UNESCO, 7 place de Fontenay, 75352 Paris 07, France. Fax: (33-1) 40 65 94 05.

In the Twilight Zone: Child workers in the hotel, tourism and catering industries, by Maggie Black. This book is part of the International Labour Organisation's Child Labour Collection. It questions certain misconceptions about child labour and argues that what is needed is a better understanding of the conditions of employment of these young people, especially girls. It promotes new research and action on child labour and suggests steps to be taken towards the regulation of children working in the industry. Copies are available from the ILO, CH-1211, Geneva 22. ISBN 92-2-109194-5, SF15.

Gender is Not a Synonym for Women, by Terrel Carver. This collection of essays questions two commonly held beliefs: that 'gender' means 'women' and that feminist politics are of no concern to men. The author examines the complex and close relationship between gender, class and ethnicity and the relationship of gender to sex and sexuality. The book is part of the series, 'Gender and Political Theory: New Contexts', published by the University of Southern California. ISBN: 1-55587-320-0, \$35.00. For copies, please contact Lynne Rienner Publishers, 1800 30th Street, Suite 314, Boulder, CO 80301, USA. Fax: (303) 444-0824.

A Commitment to the World's Women: Perspective on Development for Beijing and Beyond, edited by Noeleen Heyzer, Director, UNIFEM. This book, published by the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), is a compilation of articles by leading thinkers and advocates for women's advancement. It examines the crucial issues that have affected women, their families and societies, and offers recommendations and insights for achieving a sustainable future. Available in English for \$14.95 from Women Ink, 777 UN Plaza, New York, NY 10017, USA. Fax: (212) 661-2704.

UNICEF Videos

Audiovisual materials are available from UNICEF offices and National Committees. Please check with your local office for catalogues.

Rights & Wrongs — Child is a documentary on the lives of children in difficult circumstances around the world. The video is produced by Global Vision for non-broadcast purposes.

The State of the World's Children 1996 provides an overview of the report, detailing UNICEF's 50-year history and the impact of war on children. Available in English, French and Spanish. B-roll footage is also available.

Special needs education — Issues and view points from the Salamanca debate, a video by UNESCO featuring some of the principal speakers at the Conference on Special Needs Education held in Salamanca (Spain) in June 1994 to further the objective of Education for All. The video outlines the rationale for including the education of children with special needs in overall education strategy and new educational policies. It also calls for a major reform of the ordinary school. The video (55 minutes) is available for \$40.00 from Special Needs Education, Division of Basic Education, UNESCO, 78 Place de Fontenay, 75352, Paris 07, France. Fax: (33 1) 40 65 94 05.

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